



SoBro Sustainability Neighborhood Program

Saturday - May 31, 2014; 12:00 to 4:00pm

Luckett & Farley, 737 South Third Street

In 2013, Louisville Metro Government was selected to participate in the first cohort of the Portland State University's Urban Sustainability Accelerator (Accelerator) program. Along with the city's Offices of Sustainability and Advance Planning, the project team partners include the Jefferson Community and Technical College (JCTC), Spalding University, the Air Pollution Control District and the Metropolitan Sewer District.

SoBro – South of Broadway – is a transitional neighborhood located between the downtown urban core and the university district (Spalding University and University of Louisville). Most buildings in this neighborhood are at least 50 years old with many over 100 years old. With an eye toward revitalization of this historic neighborhood, the focus of this project seeks to stimulate public and private investments in green infrastructure and transportation choices. Combined with investments by Spalding University and JCTC, the goal is to catalyze a next stage of private investment in housing and commerce, creating a sustainable neighborhood model that also highlights the historic character of the SoBro neighborhood. An area once known as Jacob's Woods, the neighborhood was, and can be again, an oasis just south of downtown.

The project also will seek to establish the SoBro neighborhood as a mini EcoDistrict, focusing on sustainability elements such as bioswales, rain gardens, improving air quality, reducing the urban heat island, improving the tree canopy and encouraging sustainable transportation.

The Louisville project team has worked over the last year on green infrastructure projects and sustainable development concepts in SoBro and is actively seeking to engage the community in the project's next steps. A small stakeholder group is being invited to a luncheon hosted by Mayor Fischer with the support of JCTC President Dr. Tony Newberry and Spalding University President Tori Murden McClure. The meeting attendees will discuss strategies to establish SoBro as a sustainable neighborhood with the following goals:

1. Become a vibrant district that is distinguished from other neighborhoods by its commitment to sustainability principles.
2. Foster a culture whereby sustainability elements are embedded in investments and daily activities and in the goals of increased economic opportunity for SoBro's residents, students and organizations.
3. Serve as a model for future neighborhood efforts that foster social equity and economic opportunity through collaborations with citizens and public, private and nonprofit organizations.

Attendees will hear about the team's green projects and meet the experts from Portland, Oregon, who will discuss EcoDistrict programs and how a sustainable SoBro can foster economic development. Mr. Robert Liberty, Director of Portland State University's Accelerator program, and one of his colleagues will guide conversations and provide subject matter expertise.